

Module: **Family-Centered Practices
for Infants and Toddlers With Visual Impairments**

Session 1: Building Reliable Alliances

Study Questions for Recommended Reading A:

Bernheimer, Gallimore, & Weisner

Bernheimer, L.P., Gallimore, R., & Weisner, T.S. (1990). Ecocultural theory as a context for the individual family service plan. *Journal of Early Intervention, 14*(3), 219-233.

1. Until recently, theory and training in Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) have focused almost exclusively on the individual child. Why is this?
2. Ecocultural theory is a combination of ecological and cultural theories and is consistent with research on families in ECSE. Describe the three components of ecocultural theory.
3. How does ecocultural theory define a niche?
4. What is meant by the term “accommodation” in ecocultural theory?
5. What is the benefit to early childhood special education professionals in knowing about ecocultural theory?
6. Discuss the value of knowing families’ meanings, beliefs, values, and goals when writing the individualized family service plan (IFSP).
7. What is the valence of environmental factors?
8. What does ecocultural theory suggest regarding the individualized family service plan (IFSP)?
9. Niche features are hierarchical and interconnected. What does the hierarchical order of niche features mean or imply? Give an example.
10. What three additional outcomes does ecocultural theory consider be added to achieve improved individualized child-focused measures?